

Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Councilmembers,

As a lifelong resident of Montgomery County, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to introduce vaccine passports to Montgomery County.

The proposed vaccine passport is unjustifiable. The vaccine passport would [apply](#) at restaurants, movie theaters, recreation centers, and other “covered” establishments. It would [not apply](#) at big box stores, houses of worship, grocery stores, farmers markets, pharmacies, public or nonpublic schools, daycare facilities, or homeless shelters.

The county government’s selective inclusion and exclusion of venues shows that it does not actually believe that a vaccine passport is necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19. If it really did, then it would require a vaccine passport everywhere. COVID-19 can spread just as easily at a big box store, daycare facility, or homeless shelter as it can at a restaurant, movie theater, or recreation center. Thus, the proposed vaccine passport is unnecessary and bad policy.

Worse, the vaccine passport will hurt small businesses who will lose business due to a policy that is out of their control while helping big box stores who will not lose business. After 2 years of punishing COVID restrictions, new restrictions that will further erode business may destroy many small businesses’ ability to survive. In contrast, major retail chains across the country whose stores will remain free of the vaccine passport experienced [record profits](#) in 2020.

Most importantly, the residents of this county who have made the personal health decision to not receive a COVID vaccine would be barred from participating in many aspects of modern society like eating out, going to the movies, and exercising at recreation facilities that they pay the taxes to support. As public servants who were elected to serve the people of this county, removing their ability to live their lives based on a personal health decision is unethical to the extreme. I urge all of you, just as you had the right to decide for yourselves whether or not you wanted to receive a vaccine, to respect and protect your constituents’ right to do the same.

Therefore, I urge all of you to reconsider and vote against this ill-considered policy that will do so much harm to the people of this county whom you were elected to serve.

Sincerely,
Chiayu Yang